

Message from Belgian stakeholders in support of the COP 21

The Shift in alliance with the UN Global Compact Network Belgium (UNGCNB), Belgian CEO's and
NGO's

Climate change is one of the biggest global challenges for the 21st century. Our response to it will not only shape the way we will live and do business now and in the coming decades, but will also offer numerous opportunities for socio-economic progress. Combatting climate change will contribute to protect our world's biodiversity and the human race.

The [United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties 21 \(COP21\)](#), to be held in Paris in December 2015, aims to deliver a new climate change agreement that will put the world on track to a low-carbon, sustainable future while keeping the rise in global temperature to [under 2 degrees Celsius by 2100](#).

We believe we have a responsibility to actively engage in global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and to help lead the global transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy. Hence, the private sector wants to deliver climate solutions and innovations in our practices, operations and policies.

We urge the Belgian delegation to promote an ambitious climate deal at COP21. We extend an open offer to the Belgian authorities to meet and co-design tangible actions as well as help the outreach to the rest of the world's leaders and businesses to support an ambitious climate agreement.

Our vision supporting a climate deal and our commitments are the following:

- We are taking voluntary actions to reduce environmental and carbon footprints, setting targets to reduce our own GHG gas emissions and/or energy consumption while also collaborating in supply chains and at sectorial levels.
- We agree on the need for inspirational and meaningful global action and aligned messaging. We will act as ambassadors for climate action, focusing on solutions and economic opportunities. We will help raising public awareness.




- We will actively manage climate risks and incorporate them in decision making — not least to realize growth opportunities. We will take steps to implement effective strategies to strengthen not only our companies' but also societal resilience.

Therefore, we support the Belgian delegate to obtain a legally-binding global climate agreement respecting the following principles:

- The Paris agreement needs to send a clear signal to decision-makers and investors at all levels that our global economy have to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy powered by renewable energy.
- As recently stated by the G7, we propose to target the upper end of the latest IPCC recommendation of 40 to 70 % of GHG reductions by 2050 compared to 2010¹. The agreement in Paris should contain this science based, long term goal. Europe must align with this engagement, holding its leader position in combatting climate change. Therefore, in the frame of a successful agreement in Paris, the EU should strengthen its emission reduction targets for 2030 and 2050.
- The agreement in Paris should also lay a foundation for the integration of carbon pricing systems in all major emitting countries, which would be coordinated with a phasing-out of all existing carbon subsidies.
- Belgium should contribute each year to the Green Climate Fund in line with the Copenhagen agreement.

Hastening the shift to a low-carbon economy in an economically sustainable manner will generate growth and jobs in both the developing and the developed world. It lowers our dependence on fossil fuels hence reduces our dependence on energy import. Delaying action is not an option: it will be costly and will damage socio-economic progress. We call on the Belgian delegation to align on global measures, to be consistent in policy-making and to develop helpful innovation frameworks.

A comprehensive, inclusive and ambitious climate agreement in Paris on mitigation, adaptation and finance — in combination with a strong set of clear political engagements from the world's leaders — is key to accelerating this transition. This opportunity should not be missed.

Name of the signatory: **BENOÎT DE BLIECK, CEO**
 Name of the organization: **BEFIMMO SA.**
 Date: **31 August 2015.**
 Signature: 

¹ And as stated in the IPCC AR5.